

ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: Placer County Department of Facility Services, Placer County Sewer Maintenance District No. 1, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Placer County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of NPDES Permit Renewal and Cease and Desist Order.*

BACKGROUND: Placer County Department of Facility Services, Placer County Sewer Maintenance District No. 1 (Discharger) owns and operates a wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal system, and provides sewerage service to the unincorporated area of North Auburn in Placer County, which serves a population of approximately 15,000 and includes most of the industrial area of the City of Auburn. The WWTP currently provides tertiary treatment when influent flows are 3.5 mgd or less and a mixture of secondary and tertiary treatment when flows are greater than 3.5 mgd.

The proposed permit has been modified from the existing Order as follows:

- The existing Order contained relaxed seasonal limitations for BOD, TSS and total coliform organisms to allow for a lesser degree of treatment during the traditional wet season (1 November through 30 April) annually. The proposed permit contains the same relaxed limitations, but has changed the conditions of discharge based on high influent flows and low receiving water temperatures. The proposed permit also requires that the Discharger conduct an evaluation of whether best practicable treatment and control of the discharge is being provided and requires corrective measures for collection system inflow and infiltration.
- A time schedule for consideration of a wastewater regionalization compliance alternative has been included in the proposed permit.
- Based on first time priority pollutant sampling of the discharge, the proposed permit also contains new Effluent Limitations for alachlor, aluminum, atrazine, bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, bromodichloromethane, chloroform, copper, dioxin and furans, lead, manganese, mercury, MTBE, nitrate, PCBs, PAEs, chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides, silver, tributyltin and zinc.
- The proposed permit requires the Discharger develop and implement an Industrial Pretreatment Program. A first time assessment of the industrial base by U.S. EPA in the City of Auburn shows that all principal industries discharge into the SMD-1 wastewater system and not the City of Auburn WWTP.
- The proposed permit changes limitations for ammonia from a receiving water limitation to Effluent Limitations based on federal regulatory requirements.
- The proposed permit removes 30 day averaging periods for turbidity, pH and temperature receiving water limitations, which were not technically based or protective of the beneficial uses of the receiving stream.

Cease and Desist Order

The proposed Cease and Desist Order includes a time schedule for complying with effluent limitations for ammonia and nitrates and new effluent limits based on drinking water MCLs, narrative toxicity and pesticide Basin Plan objectives.

ISSUES:

The District has previously commented that the expenditure of funds for WWTP improvements would divert necessary money to close the facility and tie into a Regional WWTP. An informational item was presented to the Regional Board regarding regional wastewater treatment efforts in Placer and Nevada Counties. The permit has been amended to allow adequate time for consideration of the regional compliance alternative. Additional comments have not been received from the County, as of this writing. The issues may be expanded and addressed in a Response to Comments, which will be available prior to the Regional Board hearing.

Mgmt. Review _____

Legal Review _____

17& 18 March 2005
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
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